



STATE OF VERMONT  
Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

**To:** Donald E. Collins, Chair, Senate Education Committee  
George Cross, Chair, House Education Committee

**cc:** Rep. Gaye Symington, Speaker of the House  
Sen. Peter Welch, President Pro Tem

**From:** Richard H. Cate, Commissioner

**Re:** Annual Report on Act 150 of 2000, Public School Choice in Grades 9-12

**Date:** January 13, 2006

---

## **I. Introduction**

This is the fifth annual report required by Act 150. It provides information on how schools have implemented the law and the extent to which students have participated, focusing chiefly on the current school year. You will recall that last January we provided qualitative findings from a study done by UVM researchers and offered additional findings and recommendations as directed by the legislation in Sec. 3(b)(1)(A)-(E). Unless the legislature amends or extends Act 150, it will sunset on July 1, 2007.

The report also includes: Appendix A, Act 150 Tables and Bar Graph; Appendix B, Choice Data by School; and Appendix C, School Choice Regions for School Year 2005-2006.

For reference, you will find this report and those from 2003, 2004 and 2005 on the department's Act 150 Web page at <http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/laws/act150.html>.

## **II. Implementation of School Choice, 2005-2006**

### **School Choice Participants**

“Other” and “Unknown” appear in this report as a result of data from schools that could not be verified.

The number of students who applied to enroll in other schools this year was 128, of whom 52 actually enrolled. This is .2 percent of the estimated students in grades 9-12. Of the cumulative number of students who have transferred under Act 150 during the last four years, 254 students are currently active participants; this is .9 of all high school students.

While the number of students participating this year is higher than at any point since students first enrolled in other schools in 2002-2003, the number who have requested to enroll has declined each year. One reason may be that four years of data show that the percentages of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders applying have been greater than that of older students.

The schools with the highest number of new enrollees this year are South Burlington, 12 and Twinfield, 7. The school with the highest number of new transfers is Champlain Valley, 11.

The gender distribution of students exercising choice and participation by students receiving free and reduced price lunch and by special education students were consistent with these groups' proportional representation in the entire high school population.

Schools with technical centers or with access to them were chosen by students exercising choice at relatively higher rates than schools without such access. Given the low number of small schools and students exercising choice from them, no generalizations can be made about these data.

This year, there were no new students transferring from 44 schools; there were no new students enrolling into 40 schools; and there were no students transferring or enrolling at 32 schools

A very small number of schools either provided transportation for students exercising choice or were asked to do so.

While available data showed an apparent disparate impact on females by enrollment lotteries, there was no measurable disparate impact in enrollment lotteries on students receiving free or reduced price lunch or on special education students. There was no appreciable disparate impact on males or females or on students receiving free or reduced price lunch or on special education students in transferring lotteries.

### **Composition of School Choice Regions**

As shown in Appendix C, when compared with last year, there have been relatively few changes in the composition of school choice regions. Of note is that BFA-St. Albans, which became a public school in July 2005, will be joining the new Franklin County School Choice Region for the 2006-2007 school year.

### **III. Conclusion**

While the quantitative data in this report will inform deliberations about school choice to some degree, the small number of participants, both of those who applied and transferred and of those who applied but did not transfer, makes it impossible to draw specific or broad conclusions. The attached tables are intended to respond to the questions that precede them which have been drawn from the text of Act 150.

### **Attachments**

Appendix A, Act 150 Tables and Bar Graph

Appendix B, Choice Data by School

Appendix C, School Choice Regions for School Year 2005-2006

**Appendix A: Act 150 Tables & Charts****The Data**

Number of High Schools  
 Number of High Schools Reporting

FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06
61	61	61	61
61	61	60	61

**How many 9-12th grade pupils exercised choice and how many pupils wished to exercise choice but were unable to do so.**

	FY03	FY04*	FY05*	FY06*
Number requesting enrollment	221	188	151	128
Number enrolled	161	121	76	52
Number accepted but not enrolled	36	24	38	27
Number declined	18	33	36	27
Other	6	10	1	22**
Number requesting transfer	226	142	174	155
Number with confirmed transfer	161	121	90	52
Number accepted but not enrolled	22	13	31	57
Number declined	33	25	23	26
Other	10	8	30	20

\* Students reported in prior years are not included in these totals.

\*\* In FY06, 13 students who were accepted to enroll and were not reported as an enrolled student on the Vermont Public School student census were coded as "Other".

**How many Act 150 students are enrolled in Vermont public schools today?**

FY03	FY04		FY05		FY06	
Act 150 Students	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total	New Act 150 Students	Cumulative Total
161	120	223	76	223	52	254

**How choice has affected stratification of student populations with respect to social and economic factors**

	Total number of 9-12th grade students in Vermont public high schools		Total number of 9-12th grade students requesting enrollment by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students enrolled by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students declined enrollment by choice	
Total	29,261		128	0.4%	52	40.6%	27	21.1%
Gender								
Female	14,223	48.6%	78	60.9%	25	48.1%	20	74.1%
Male	15,038	51.4%	50	39.1%	27	51.9%	7	25.9%
Unknown**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Special Ed								
With IEP	3,866	13.2%	12	9.4%	7	13.5%	2	7.4%
Without IEP	25,395	86.8%	116	90.6%	45	86.5%	25	92.6%
Poverty								
Free/Red Lunch	5,875	20.1%	14	10.9%	7	13.5%	3	11.1%
No Free/Red Lunch	23,386	79.9%	89	69.5%	45	86.5%	22	81.5%
Unknown**	0	0.0%	25	19.5%	0	0.0%	2	7.4%
Grade Level								
9	7,707	26.3%	50	39.1%	29	55.8%	6	22.2%
10	7,461	25.5%	22	17.2%	8	15.4%	12	44.4%
11	7,226	24.7%	19	14.8%	11	21.2%	3	11.1%
12	6,867	23.5%	11	8.6%	3	5.8%	4	14.8%
8/Unknown	0	0.0%	26	20.3%	1	1.9%	2	7.4%

**Whether special education students and other students with special needs are receiving equal access to choice and whether their needs were accommodated**

	Total number of 9-12th grade students in Vermont public high schools		Total number of 9-12th grade students requesting transfer by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students with confirmed transfer by choice		Total number of 9-12th grade students declined transfer by choice	
Total	29,261		155	0.5%	52	33.5%	26	16.8%
Gender								
Female	14,223	48.6%	77	49.7%	25	48.1%	11	42.3%
Male	15,038	51.4%	78	50.3%	27	51.9%	15	57.7%
Unknown**	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Special Ed								
With IEP	3,866	13.2%	16	10.3%	7	13.5%	1	3.8%
Without IEP	25,395	86.8%	139	89.7%	45	86.5%	25	96.2%
Poverty								
Free/Red Lunch	5,875	20.1%	23	14.8%	7	13.5%	2	7.7%
No Free/Red Lunch	23,386	79.9%	121	78.1%	45	86.5%	20	76.9%
Unknown**	0	0.0%	11	7.1%	0	0.0%	4	15.4%
Grade Level								
9	7,707	26.3%	59	38.1%	29	55.8%	6	23.1%
10	7,461	25.5%	30	19.4%	8	15.4%	8	30.8%
11	7,226	24.7%	23	14.8%	11	21.2%	2	7.7%
12	6,867	23.5%	22	14.2%	3	5.8%	4	15.4%
7/8/SU/Unknown	0	0.0%	21	13.5%	1	1.9%	6	23.1%

**The effect of the system on access to technical centers and transition to work programs**

The current study provided no information indicating whether choice affected access to transition to work programs. However, we were able to look at the effect of choice on access to technical centers. Each school was labelled as including a local technical center, or not and the number of students enrolling in or transferring to each categories is listed below. For the third year in a row the data indicate that students are leaving schools without a local technical center more often than one with. Similarly more students are entering schools with a local technical center than those without.

	N	Enrolling	Transferring	Percentage of Schools with Net Loss
Schools with Local Technical Centers	15	15	6	13%
Schools without Local Technical Centers	46	37	32	22%

**How the system has affected small schools**

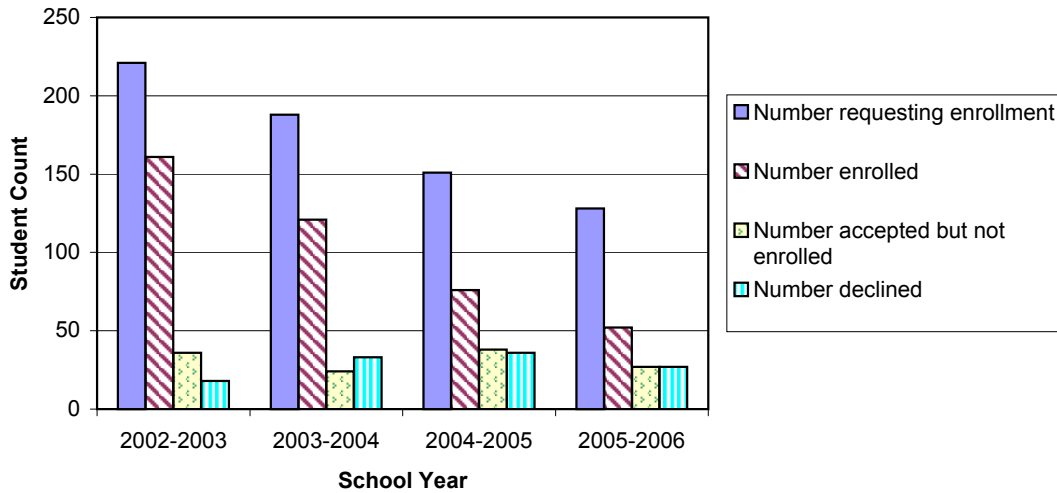
To address this issue, schools were labelled as small if they had 25 or fewer graduates. This method has been used previously in the decision not to report graduation rates for small high schools.

	N	Enrolling	Transferring	Percentage of Schools with Net Loss
Schools with fewer than 25 or fewer graduates	6	2	1	0%
Schools with more than 25 graduates	55	50	37	22%

**Transportation Questions**

	Yes	No	No Answer	Unknown
Does your school provide transportation assistance for enrolled Act 150 students?	1	43	16	1
Does your school provide transportation assistance for transferring Act 150 students?	1	36	23	1
Has your school been asked to provide transportation assistance for enrolled Act 150 students?	1	34	15	11
Has your school been asked to provide transportation assistance for transferring Act 150 students?	1	36	23	1

**Students Requesting to Enroll By Act 150**



**Appendix B: Choice Data by School**

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY06	Enrollment Capacity FY06	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Small High School*	Local Technical Center
Statewide Totals		325	451	161	120	76	52	161	120	76	52	6	15
PS011	ARLINGTON MEMORIAL	0	4	0	1	0	0	3	4	4	4	No	No
PS025	BELLOWS FALLS UHSD #27	0	15	10	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	No	No
PS027	BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS035	BLACK RIVER USD #39	0	10	5	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	No	No
PS036	BLUE MOUNTAIN USD #21	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	3	No	No
PS040	BRATTLEBORO UHSD #6	0	4	0	0	1	0	3	3	4	0	No	Yes
PS052	BURLINGTON SENIOR HIGH SCH	15	15	3	5	4	1	3	8	8	2	No	Yes
PS055	CABOT SCHOOL	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Yes	No
PS059	CANAAN SCHOOLS	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS066	CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UHSD #15	11	5	0	8	7	11	0	1	0	1	No	No
PS069	CHELSEA ELEM. HIGH SCHOOL	7	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS072	COLCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL	6	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	No	No
PS074	CONCORD SCHOOL	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Yes	No
PS078	CRAFTSBURY SCHOOLS	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	Yes	No
PS082	DANVILLE SCHOOL	8	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	No	No
PS098	ENOSBURG FALLS JR/SR HIGH SC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	Yes
PS388	ESSEX COMM. ED. CTR. UHSD #46	10	10	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	No	Yes
PS104	FAIR HAVEN UHSD #16	10	10	7	1	0	2	7	3	0	1	No	No
PS124	GREEN MOUNTAIN UHSD #35	28	22	2	1	0	0	16	6	2	0	No	No
PS134	HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	No	Yes
PS138	HARWOOD UHSD #19	10	10	3	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	No	No
PS139	HAZEN UHSD #26	10	10	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS157	LAKE REGION UHSD #24	0	0	6	5	5	2	4	6	7	0	No	No
PS158	LAMOILLE UHSD #18	5	5	3	0	0	0	3	0	2	3	No	Yes
PS161	LELAND AND GRAY UHSD #34	10	10	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	0	No	No
PS180	MIDDLEBURY SR. UHSD #3	0	0	0	1	0	1	6	6	2	0	No	Yes

Vermont Department of Education

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY06	Enrollment Capacity FY06	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Small High School*	Local Technical Center
Statewide Totals		325	451	161	120	76	52	161	120	76	52	6	15
PS183	MILL RIVER USD #40	0	2	4	1	2	1	20	2	1	0	No	No
PS186	MILTON SR HIGH SCHOOL	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	No	No
PS187	MISSISQUOI VALLEY UHSD #7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS191	MONTPELIER HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	6	9	0	1	15	4	0	3	No	No
PS195	MOUNT ABRAHAM UHSD #28	1	10	5	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	No	No
PS196	MT. ANTHONY SR. UHSD #14	0	10	3	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	No	Yes
PS199	MT. MANSFIELD USD #17	0	10	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	No	No
PS208	NORTH COUNTRY SR UHSD #22	0	0	2	4	7	0	6	7	7	2	No	Yes
PS211	NORTHFIELD MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	6	6	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	No	No
PS219	OTTER VALLEY UHSD #8		0	10	4	4	0	3	3	0	1	No	No
PS220	OXBOW UHSD #30	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	2	0	2	No	Yes
PS224	PEOPLES ACADEMY	6	6	2	1	1	1	4	3	0	0	No	No
PS230	POULTNEY HIGH SCHOOL	8	8	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS233	PROCTOR JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	2	2	0	1	5	1	4	1	Yes	No
PS237	RANDOLPH UHSD #2	12	12	1	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	No	Yes
PS242	RICHFORD JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PI004	RIVENDELL ACADEMY	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS247	ROCHESTER SCHOOL	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	Yes	No
PS253	RUTLAND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	0	3	2	2	2	0	13	4	5	3	No	Yes
PS272	SO. BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL	25	25	1	0	0	2	1	14	11	12	No	No
PS274	SO. ROYALTON ELEM/HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	No	No
PS276	SPAULDING HSUD #41	10	6	7	3	3	1	5	4	4	1	No	Yes
PS278	SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL	20	20	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	No	Yes
PS287	STOWE MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL	6	6	2	1	0	0	5	3	2	2	No	No
PS304	TWINFIELD USD #33	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	4	2	5	No	No
PS305	U32 HIGH SCHOOL (UHSD #32)	10	10	12	4	0	2	6	9	2	1	No	No
PS312	VERGENNES UHSD #5	10	10	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	No	No

## Vermont Department of Education

School ID	School Name	Transfer Capacity FY06	Enrollment Capacity FY06	Students Transferred By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students with Confirmed Transfer By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Students Enrolled By Act 150 FY03	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY04	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY05	Additional Students Enrolled By Act 150 Reported in FY06	Small High School*	Local Technical Center
Statewide Totals		325	451	161	120	76	52	161	120	76	52	6	15
PS331	WEST RUTLAND SCHOOL	6	10	5	3	0	0	2	2	1	0	No	No
PS338	WHITCOMB JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS341	WHITINGHAM SCHOOL		0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0		
PS344	WILLIAMSTOWN MIDDLE/HIGH SC	5	5	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	No	No
PS346	TWIN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL	0	50	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	No	No
PS348	WINDSOR HIGH SCHOOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	No
PS351	WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL	14	19	2	4	6	0	2	2	0	0	No	No
PS356	WOODSTOCK SR. UHSD #4	0	10	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	No	No
PS405	BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY (FAIRF	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No	Yes
	UNKNOWN			31	31	25	14						

\* UNKNOWN represents students who enrolled in a school Act 150 but the transferring school is not known. The majority of these students are 8th graders during the Act 150 lotteries.



**Appendix C: Public High Schools – Composition of School Choice Regions Under Act 150**  
**School Year 2005-2006 - Vermont Department of Education – January 2006**

**Note:** Schools in Addison County (three schools), Rutland County (seven schools), Southeast Region (10 schools), and Winooski Valley (16 schools), are included individually on the list and are listed in groups at the end. For some listings, a semi-colon indicates two separate regions; for example, see Burlington. Apart from the larger groups, most schools are in regions with one or two other schools. This year, 61 schools are members of 19 regions. Eight schools are members of two regions. While BFA-St. Albans is listed as part of a pending agreement, its students will not participate in high school choice until 2006-2007.

<b>School</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Agreement (on file = X)</b>
Arlington Memorial	Mt. Anthony	X
BFA-Fairfax	Lamoille; Franklin County	X; X (pending)
BFA-St. Albans	Franklin County	X
Bellows Falls	Southeast Region	X
Black River	Southeast Region	X
Blue Mountain Union	Oxbow	X
Brattleboro	Southeast Region	X
Burlington High School	Winooski; CVU and So. Burlington	X; X
Cabot School	Winooski Valley	X
Canaan Memorial High School	Lake Region and North Country	X
Champlain Valley	Burlington and So. Burlington	X
Chelsea High School	Winooski Valley	X
Colchester High School	Mt. Mansfield	X
Concord High School	Danville	X
Craftsbury Academy	Winooski Valley	X
Danville School	Concord	X
Enosburg Falls High School	Richford High School; Franklin County	X; X
Essex	South Burlington	X
Fair Haven	Rutland County	X
Green Mountain	Southeast Region	X
Hartford High School	Southeast Region	X
Harwood	Winooski Valley	X
Hazen	Winooski Valley	X
Lake Region	Canaan and North Country	X

<b>School</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Agreement (on file = X)</b>
Lamoille	BFA-Fairfax; North Country; Winooski Valley	X; X; X
Leland & Gray	Southeast Region	X
Middlebury	Mt. Abraham and Vergennes	X
Mill River	Rutland County	X
Milton High School	Missisquoi	X
Missisquoi Valley	Milton; Franklin County	X; X
Montpelier High School	U-32	X
Mt. Abraham	Middlebury and Vergennes	X
Mt. Anthony	Arlington; Whitingham/Wilmington	X; X
Mt. Mansfield	Colchester	X
North Country	Lamoille Union; Canaan and North Country	X; X
Northfield High School	Winooski Valley	X
Otter Valley	Rutland County	X
Oxbow	Blue Mountain	X
Peoples Academy	Winooski Valley	X
Poultney High School	Rutland County	X
Proctor High School	Rutland County	X
Randolph	Winooski Valley	X
Richford High School	Enosburg Falls High School; Franklin County	X; X
Rivendell High School	Southeast Region	X
Rochester School	Winooski Valley	X
Rutland Senior High School	Rutland County	X
So. Burlington High School	Burlington and CVU; Essex	X; X
So. Royalton High School	Winooski Valley	X
Spaulding High School	Winooski Valley	X
Springfield High School	Southeast Region	X
Stowe High School	Winooski Valley	X
Twinfield Union High School	Winooski Valley	X
U-32 High School	Montpelier	X
Vergennes	Middlebury and Mt. Abraham	X
West Rutland School	Rutland County	X
Whitcomb High School	Winooski Valley	X
Whitingham/Wilmington	Mt. Anthony	X

<b>School</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Agreement (on file = X)</b>
Williamstown High School	Winooski Valley	X
Windsor High School	Southeast Region	X
Winooski High School	Burlington	X
Woodstock High School	Southeast Region	X

**Addison County Regional Public High School Choice Partnership - 3**

Middlebury,  
Mt. Abraham  
Vergennes

**Winooski Valley Region Public School Choice Collaborative - 16**

Cabot	Northfield	Stowe
Chelsea	Peoples Academy	Twinfield
Craftsbury	Randolph	Whitcomb
Harwood	Rochester	Williamstown
Hazen	South Royalton	
Lamoille Union	Spaulding	

**Southeast Region - 10**

Bellows Falls	Hartford	Windsor
Black River	Leland & Gray	Woodstock
Brattleboro	Rivendell	
Green Mountain	Springfield	

**Rutland County School Choice Collaborative - 7**

Fair Haven UHSD #16	Proctor High School
Mill River USD #40	Rutland City
Otter Valley UHSD #8	West Rutland School
Poultney High School	

**Franklin County Public School Choice Collaborative (agreement pending) - 5**

BFA-Fairfax	Missisquoi
BFA-St. Albans	Richford
Enosburg	